

NAME: Hatano, Chusaburo DATE OF BIRTH: 1900 PLACE OF BIRTH: Wakayama  
Age: 76 Sex: M Marital Status: Sep. Education: 9 yrs.

## PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1917 Age: 17 M.S.Y.Y. Port of entry: Seattle  
Occupation/s: 1. Farm laborer 2. Grocer 3. Shoe maker  
Place of residence: 1. San Pedro 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious affiliation: Christian church  
Community organizations/activities: \_\_\_\_\_

## EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: Santa Anita  
Name of relocation center: Amache, Colorado  
Dispensation of property: Put machine in storage Names of bank/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held in camp: 1. Shoe repairman 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jobs held outside of camp: \_\_\_\_\_  
Left camp to go to: Denver

## POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: Nov. '46  
Address/es: 1. Hollywood 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious affiliation: Christian church  
Activities: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 8/26/76 Place: Hollywood

*Translator; Undicted*



T: At first please tell me your name.

H. My name is Chusaburo Hatano.

Q: Where is your birthplace?

A: It is Wakayama Prefecture.

Q: When were you born?

A: I was born in 1900. I am 75 years old now.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: I had two older sisters, but they have already passed away.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He was a farmer. I came to America in 1917. In those days there were few Japanese in town. Most Japanese were farming in the country. The anti-Japanese sentiment was the strongest in those days. Nobody else can imagine how much Japanese suffered from it except those who experienced it themselves. Around the time I came here the wage was \$1 a day, and they had to bring their own lunch. For lunch they did not have rice but dumplings made of flour. The wage was only \$1 a day. Of course a dollar was worth much more than it is today. That was the time I came to this country as a yobiyose. It was in October of 1917. In those days many people came here as yobiyose or picture brides.

Q: Where was your father living then?

A: He was on a hill in San Pedro.



Q: What was he doing there?

A: He was farming. In those days he had to clear the land by removing rocks and cacti and cultivate it. Then he planted beans and tomatoe. There was no water there. It rained in October and November so they had to depend on the rain, but if it didn't rain they could not farm. Even if they went to town there was no job for them. They could not understand English, and they didn't know the way around.

Q: When did your father come to America?

A: I don't know.

Q: Did he come to America when you were little?

A: No, before I was born.

Q: What about your mother?

A: He left her <sup>behind</sup> in Japan and came to America alone. I don't think Nisei and Sansei can fully understand the hardships Isseis experienced just like the Blacks today do not understand what kind of hardships their parents experienced before the war.

Q: What else did your father tell you about the hard experience?

A: Nothing much. ~~As~~ he was a farmer he did not have education nor experience and nothing much to teach me, but he often told me about the hard time he had in his work.

Q: About how many acres was he farming?

A: It was quite big. I think there was about 100 acres.



Q: Did your father buy the land?

A: No, he leased the land with his friend as a partner.

Q: Did you live in Wakayama with your mother and two sisters?

A: There were grandparents, too.

Q: What do you remember about your childhood in Japan?

A: I have forgotten everything about my childhood.

Q: What about schools?

A: I went as far as the third grade in Junior high school.

Q: Did you like school?

A: In those days I did not like school too much. On the contrary, I like to study now. As I came to know about the world I realized that I should study. Before the war Japanese were not given opportunities no matter how much education they had. Even after graduating from universities some Japanese became gardeners or farmers as they could not get opportunities. Now Japanese have many opportunities.

Q: Did you come to America when you were 17 years old?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you live with your mother, grandparents and sisters until then?

A: My sisters were married and my grandparents were dead by the time I came here.



Q: Whom were you most influenced by?

A: I think it was my mother.

Q: What kind of a person was your mother?

A: She was a simple and honest farmer. She could not tell jokes or flattery.

Q: What kind of games did you play when you were young?

A: We did not play games like young people nowadays. We enjoyed fishing in the stream. In the country we did not go to dance or movies or go hiking with friends like they do in the city, much less 50 or 60 years ago.

Q: Did you work after you finished school?

A: I stayed at a house of my relative who was a carpenter for about a year. As I was coming to America in about a year my grandfather thought I should not be idle during that time, so he asked this man to let me stay there.

Q: Was the carpenter's work hard?

A: Yes, it was. We had to work from early in the morning. That did a lot of good for me.

Q: Why was it?

A: I could not sleep late but had to get up promptly in the morning, and serve my seniors. I don't mind getting up early in the morning now.



Q: What kind of work did you do then?

A: Not much of a work except taking orders here and there.

Q: About what time did you get up in the morning?

A: I don't remember what time but it was quite early. I think it was around 5 or 5:30 in the morning.

Q: Do you remember anything about the carpenter's work?

A: No, there isn't anything in particular.

Q: Were you trained much?

A: I was strongly built for my age, so I could do a man's job when I was young. At school I was a naughty boy and was strong in Sumo.

I think I was the third strongest in Sumo in our school. The first and the second strongest men have already passed away.

Q: What kind of subjects did you like at school?

A: I didn't have any subject I specially liked.

Q: Do you remember your teachers?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Were there good teachers?

A: Yes, there were. Mr. A young teacher named Mr. Kobayashi from Osaka instructed me well in Sumo. It has become an old dream.

Q: What did you learn from your mother and grandparents?

A: They didn't tell me what to do.



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Q: Didn't they teach you about attitude or what is important for a person?

A: No, they didn't teach me anything like that.

Q: Whom did you learn those things from?

A: Since I came to this country I followed examples of others and according to my experience or through books I learned what I should do.

Q: Did you learn about Sonkoku Ninomiya in school?

A: Yes, I did. What impressed me most was Masashige Kusunoki's instruction to his son at the time he went to the battle at Minatogawa. He said, "A lion kicks its 3-day-old cub down the cliff to try its strength. You are already 11 years old now. Realize what I say, and after I die gather the men and defeat the enemy." He meant to teach his son that when a man is in a very bad situation he should not be discouraged but should rise up. That was the teaching that impressed me most.

Q: Did that teaching support your morale?

A: Yes, it did.

Q: What was the religion of your family?

A: It was the 'Zèn' sect.

Q: Were your grandparents religious people?

A: The people in olden days were all very religious. They did not let us cook meat in the house. They offered cooked rice at the family altar before we could have breakfast.



T: I think it is good to have that kind of attitude.

A: I think so.

Q: What kind of village was yours?

A: It was a very quiet and peaceful little village. We lived 18 blocks from the beach. The school, village office and the post office were all on the beach. We commuted to school everyday walking 18 blocks with our lunch.

Q: Was it fun?

A: Yes, it was

Q: Could you fish in the sea?

A: Yes, we could. It is a tourist resort now. There were 18 blocks to the sea, but we lived closer to a river. There were sweetfish, 9 carp and eel in the river. In summertime we went to the river after school and fished.

Q: Were there any disasters in the village?

A: There was no earthquake, but there was a big forest fire and a few houses at the foot of the hill were burnt. I was very scared then. That was about the only thing that happened.

Q: Do you remember about any war?

A: I was very little at the time of the Russo-Japanese War, so I don't remember anything.



Q: You must have heard about America from your father. What kind of country did you think America was?

A: I didn't know anything about America. I only imagined that it a big and rich country as people came back to Japan with fortune.

Q: Didn't your father write anything about America?

A: No, he didn't much.

Q: Did he send you money?

A: Yes, he did at New Years and at 'Bon'.

Q: Did your mother farm?

A: Yes, she did.

Q: Did you know you were coming to America?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you want to come to America?

A: Yes, I did. I was bored staying in Japan so I wanted to come to America.

Q: Did many people come to America from your village?

A: Yes, they did. Many came here in those days but most of them went back to Japan. Six or seven people are still here.

Q: Did those who went back to Japan return home in glory?

A: Yes, they did.



Q: What did they do after they went back to Japan?

A: Some farmed and some moved out of the village as it was hard to live in the village.

Q: Did you want to go back to Japan in glory?

A: I did not have a definite ambition.

Q: Did your father summon you when you were 17?

A: Yes, I was a 'Yobiyose'. In those days there were immigrants and non-immigrants. Students and 'yobiyose' were classified as non-immigrants. I came here as a non-immigrant.

Q: Was there difference in treatment between immigrants and non-immigrants?

A: Yes, there was.

Q: How were they different?

A: Immigrants were discriminated as immigrants. Non-immigrants were treated differently.

Q: What port did you sail from?

A: From Kobe.

Q: How did you feel when you left Japan?

A: I did not have any special feeling.

Q: Did you feel lonely?

A: No, I didn't. Four or five days after we left, the ocean was so rough that I was afraid the ship might sink as it was a 6,000 ton small ship.



Q: Were you with your mother?

A: No, just myself alone.

Q: Didn't your mother come with you?

A: No, she didn't. She came to America with a relative who was here<sup>before</sup><sub>A</sub> and went back to Japan.

Q: Were there all kinds of people on board the ship?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: What kind of people were there?

A: There were some people who drank and some who gambled.

Q: Were there picture brides?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Did you have a chance to talk with them?

A: As I was young I would rather go around than talking with them.

Q: Do you have any recollection of the days ~~an~~ on board the ship?

A: Nothing special except the sea was rough and the ship rocked.

We stopped at Vancouver at first. I still have the impression of that time.

Q: How was it?

A: Vancouver looked very pretty from the ship. There was lawn along the beach. The houses were painted white and red. When I looked at the scenery from the ship it looked like a picture.



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That was the first time I saw a foreign country so I was impressed.  
From there we went to Seattle and landed there.

Q: Did you get a physical examination?

A: No, I didn't. I just had my eyes examined.

Q: Didn't you get a physical examination in Japan?

A: No, I didn't. As I was told that they are strict about eyes, I went to an eye doctor and had them checked, but my eyes were not bad. There was no examination when I landed.

Q: Could you land at Seattle right away?

A: I stayed at the Immigration Office for 2 or 3 days, and landed one by one.

Q: What did they check at the Immigration Office?

A: An examiner made us read a piece of paper written in Japanese.  
I think they tested our academic attainment.

Q: Did Japanese give that test?

A: No, an American. Of course there was a Japanese interpreter.  
I read that paper, and that was the only examination.

Q: What kind of place did you stay for 2 or 3 days?

A: We were put inside a wired fence where we could not get out freely.

Q: Did you feel uneasy?

A: No, I didn't.



Q: When did you meet your father for the first time?

A: I took a ship from Seattle to San Pedro. When I arrived there my father came to greet me.

Q: How did you feel when you saw your father for the first time?

A: I don't remember how I felt. I have a vague memory.

Q: Did you call him, "Otohsan" (Dad) right away?

A: It was not easy.

Q: What did you father say to you?

A: I don't remember now.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: We went to Japantown and stayed there one or two nights. Then we went to San Pedro.

Q: How did you feel when you saw the hill?

A: I thought it was a terrible place. From the following day I started working using horses. We were clearing the land then, so we dug out rocks, put them on horses and took them to the field. Those days were better than now.

Q: Why is it?

A: Because <sup>now</sup> there are too many Japanese gathered in town, and they do not have good reputation. In those days we worked hard.



Q: About what time did you start working?

A: As soon as it became light, and we worked <sup>till</sup> late at night. In those days farmers' wives worked wearing same clothes as men's. You cannot see such a sight even if you wanted to.

Q: Who cooked?

A: The housewives did.

Q: How many partners did your father have?

A: Just one partner and himself. In those days Japanese farmers at harvest season used mostly Mexicans, as there were not enough Japanese.

Q: What did you do during the summer?

A: We had to pick the fruits during the summer.

Q: Didn't you have water in the summer?

A: No, we didn't. At that time we cultivated and prepared the land for planting.

Q: You were farming in a large scale, weren't you?

A: Yes, we were.

Q: How long did you stay there?

A: About a year. Then I moved around.



Q: What did you do then?

A: I picked oranges. There were orange ranches where Japanese boss gathered 20 to 30 farm laborers. There is no such place nowadays but in those days there were many such camps especially in Riverside. I worked at such a place.

Q: Did you father let you go?

A: Yes, he did.

Q: About how much did you get paid working at an orange ranch?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Were there many single men then?

A: Yes, they were all single.

Q: Did single men gamble in those days?

A: Yes. Those who gambled led fast lives. There was a gambling house named, 'Tokyo Club' in Japantown in San Pedro.

Q: How long did you work at orange ranches?

A: I don't remember.

Q: Did you work 4 to 5 years?

A: I think so.

Q: How was the life in such a camp?

A: We get up early in the morning, eat breakfast and start working around 8 O'clock. We come home in the evening, and eat supper. We repeat that kind of daily routine.



Q: Did you work from Monday to Saturday?

A: Yes. We didn't work on Sunday.

Q: What did you do on Sunday?

A: Nothing much. I cleaned my room or washed clothes or went shopping in town.

Q: Did you go out to see movies?

A: Very seldom. I don't think I had the time.

Q: What were you doing during the Depression?

A: I had a little grocery store on Washington Blvd. In those days when I took the checks the customers gave me to the bank they boun<sup>ced</sup>.

Q: How long did you manage the store?

A: About a year or two as business was dull.

Q: What was your sentiment towards the white people then?

A: I was not particularly friendly nor hated them.

Q: Have you ever been excluded as an individual?

A: After the war broke out I had such an experience in Colorado. When I went to a restaurant there I was not served. That is about the only such experience.

Q: Until then you have never been excluded as an individual?

A: No, because I belonged to a church, and the white people who go to church were not that kind. I heard that many people were excluded.



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Q: What kind of thing did you hear?

A: Some people were called, 'Jap'.

Q: When did you start going to church?

A: Around 1924. In those days there was night school at church, so I went there and studied English. Not like today the Japanese community was very small. When we went downtown we never went to Broadway or Hill Street because Japanese were not served there, so we went to Japantown or Main Street. The places Japanese went was limited. I think the Japanese community before the war was more religious. Nowadays young people have places to go and play so they do not go to church.

Q: Were there many Japanese women around the time you started going to church?

A: Yes, there were. The immigration law came in effect in 1924, so before 1924 many Japanese women came here.

Q: What was the hardest thing when you first came here?

A: That was when I became ill.

Q: When was that?

A: When I was 23 years old I suffered <sup>from</sup> periostitis.

Q: How long did you suffer from it?

A: It changed my life, so to speak. Since then I could not do any rough work.



Q: Were you hospitalized?

A: Yes, I was. I think it is hard to start having faith unless we experience suffering.

Q: What did you do about the doctor's and hospital expense when you became ill?

A: My friends who came from the same village paid them for me.

Q: What did you do for recreation in those days?

A: I didn't do anything. Only once in a while I had picnic with the Kenjin Kai (Prefectural Association). In those day every year the Japanese Training Fleet came here. At that time we reserved Lincoln Park and all the Japanese gathered there and entertained the sailors.

Q: Did you belong to the Japanese Association and other organizations?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you just belonged to the church?

A: Yes, that was good because those who were associated with the Japanese Association were arrested when the war broke out. Those who taught Japanese Language School were also arrested by F.B.I. I did not belong to any of those organization but still F.B.I. came to see me but I was not arrested. I think there was a misunderstanding.

Q: How did you learn English?

A: I learned it at night school.

Q: Did you go to school soon after you came here?

A: No, after I started living in town and started going to church.



Q: Did your father continue to farm for a long time?

A: He went back to Japan not long after that.

Q: Were you left behind alone then?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: Did you give up your grocery store during the Depression?

A: Yes, I sold the store.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: I got into shoe business. I was in that business the longest.

Q: Were you in that business till the war broke out?

A: I was in it till the war started, and after the war I started the business here again. While I was in the camp I was in charge of shoes as a manager.

Q: Were you successful in shoe business?

A: I cannot say I was successful. I just made a living.

Q: Did you marry?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did your wife pass away?

A: No, we are divorced.

Q: Was it before the war?

A: No, after the war.



Q: When did you get married?

A: Soon after we came back from the camp after the war.

Q: Did you manage the shoe store all by yourself?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What kind of headaches did you have as a cobbler?

A: There wasn't any trouble except that it was hard to get the material in those days as the Army used them. During the war shoes were rationed and we could not buy them.

Q: Were your customer Japanese?

A: There were the Whites, Japanese, Spanish and sometimes the Blacks but mostly the Whites.

Q: You had good business, didn't you?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did strange customers come once in a while?

A: Yes, there were all kinds of customers.

Q: Did you ever feel like quitting?

A: Yes, I did. Sometimes I had shoes stolen.

Side 2 Q: What do you recollect about your shoe business days?

A: Nothing special.



Q: Was it better than the grocery store?

A: Yes, it was. Grocery business is a hard one. It looks profitable, but it isn't. There are expenses as we had to hire people.

Q: Was the relationship between Japanese and Americans getting bad before the Pearl Harbor attack?

A: Americans who traded with Japanese were not bad, but those who did not know Japanese seemed that way as newspapers wrote up about Japanese.

Q: What kind of thing did newspapers write about?

A: They wrote bad things about Japanese. I remember when the anti-Japanese immigration law passed in 1924 a Hearst newspaper had a big headline which read, "Shut Forever Jap". That kind of thing influence the public. Ironically Mr. Hearst was shut out from the society.

T: In Northern California McCarthy and Hiram Johnson were leaders of anti-Japanese movement.

A: It was the same here. Even a little child knew the name Johnson.

Q: Were there any other leaders of anti-Japanese movement?

A: I don't know any other.

Q: Was the attitude of Americans before the Pearl Harbor any different?

A: Not particularly.



Q: How did you feel when you heard Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I thought, "What a grave thing happened!" I was driving along San Pedro Street then. I stopped the car and went up to the 5th Street. A newsboy on the corner asked me if I heard the news, so I answered, "Yes". I saw in the paper that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor and gave heavy damage. I thought that the situation was grave. When I hurried to Japantown I saw Japanese standing in groups of two or three and talking. I knew Mr. Fujii, president of Kashu Mainichi. He and Mr. Komai of Rafu Shimpō and others were taken away that night.

Q: Did you invest much money in your business?

A: Yes. When I came back after the war the government gave me back some.

Q: Did you think Japanese were in danger?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What did you do after that?

A: I closed my store, stored the machines, then went to my friend's in Jefferson and went to camp with him.

Q: Did you close the store before the evacuation?

A: Yes, I did. because <sup>even</sup> if the store is open the customers would not come and it was dangerous.

Q: Where did you store the machine?

A: I stored it at a machine company.



Q: Did you get back everything you stored?

A: Large items were there, but some little items were lost. Furniture and other things that I stored at other places did not come back.

Q: Where did you go first from your friend's?

A: We went to Santa Anita, and then to Amache, Colorado.

Q: Were you taken to Santa Anita by a bus?

A: Yes.

Q: How did you feel when you were taken there?

A: I never had such an experience, so I was mortified. We had to stay there as we could not get out.

Q: How were the meals?

A: We lined up at the mess hall and ate three meals there.

Q: Were there any trouble at Santa Anita?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: What kind of trouble were there?

A: I heard that there was a Korean informer, and a policeman was subjected to a kangaroo court. I wondered what was going to happen.

T: I think when people are put in such a place they get excited.

H: Young people were all excited.



Q: Did you suffer any inconvenience at Santa Anita?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: How was Amache?

A: It was pretty good there. It was a very windy place, so when strong wind blew tables were covered with dust.

Q: Did you work at Santa Anita?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: What about in Amache?

A: I worked there.

Q: Did you take care of shoes?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What did you think about the question of loyalty?

A: I wrote that I would pledge loyalty to America. As long as we live in America I thought we should obey its policy.

Q: Weren't there many people who were loyal to Japan in Amache then?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Weren't you afraid of them?

A: Those people were mostly transferred to Tule Lake.

Q: Did those people hold demonstrations?

A: No, they didn't.



Q: Amache was rather quiet wasn't it?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: What did you think about Nisei going to war? Did you think they should or should not?

A: I was not a Nisei so I did not know which was good. If I were a Nisei I would had a definite opinion. To me it seemed like somebody's business so I did not think seriously.

Q: Did you do anything for recreation in the camp?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you join any kind of class?

A: No, I only worked as I was responsible as a manager.

Q: About how many people worked under you?

A: About 10 people.

Q: Did you repair shoes?

A: Yes, we did. We had a hard time as we could not get enough materials.

Q: What else do you remember about Amache?

A: I don't remember anything special.

Q: Don't you have any hobby?

A: I like to play 'Go'. As I was busy I didn't have opportunities to play 'Go'.



Q: What grade are you in 'Go'.

A: I am the first grade.

Q: When did you leave the camp?

A: I don't remember well, but I think it was in 1944.

Q: Where did you go?

A: I went to Denver.

Q: Why did you leave the camp early?

A: As I heard they were going to close the camp I decided to leave the camp. I left there with a friend.

Q: What did you do at Denver?

A: I bought a shoe store in Boulder and managed the business for a year and a half there.

Q: Did your apprenticeship with the carpenter helped you with the shoe repair business?

A: Yes, it did.

Q: Was it then that you were not served at a restaurant?

A: Yes, it was. The morning I came out of the camp I went to a restaurant in Boulder and sat at a counter. When the waiter saw me he ran into the kitchen, so I wondered why. He seemed to be talking with the cool. I think he said, "That is a Jap. What shall I do?" He passed by me but just ignored me. When white customers came he served them right away. I figured I was not going to be served so I left there. Then I went to another restaurant and I



was served there. I found out that the owner of the restaurant was a German. No wonder I was served because he was from the Axis country. Then a sailor came and started saying something to me. The old lady of the restaurant tried to change subject by asking him about fishing. The owner of the restaurant must have notified the police, because when I went there the following day a plain-clothes policeman sat beside me to protect me from harm. Boulder is a high class city with the University of Colorado. In those days Army and Navy officers were studying Japanese there. They used to come to my store as they wanted to speak Japanese. Some people brought their wives who warned me to be careful.

Q: Did you <sup>often</sup> go to that restaurant that served you?

A: Yes, I did, but there wasn't any more incident like that after that.

Q: Did you get a shock by such an incident?

A: Yes, I did. That was the first time I experienced such a thing.

Q: When you opened your store did many white customers come?

A: Yes, they did. Some customers left when they found out that I was a Japanese, but they came back. As far as work was concerned I was better than Americans, so the customers kept on bringing shoes. In those days people could not buy shoes.

Q: Could you get the material?

A: The material was not too good, but I could get them.



Q: How long did you stay there?

A: A year and a half.

Q: Why did you decide to leave Colorado?

A: The owner of the store changed. He was a British and he wanted to do the business himself, so he wanted me out.

Q: Were you leasing the store?

A: I was renting it.

Q: Were there many Japanese there?

A: Yes, there were quite a bit. Some were working in the kitchen of the university as janitors or dishwashers. They all came to my store. There was a Methodist Church a block away. Boulder is a little town <sup>but</sup> ~~by~~ it is very pretty.

Q: Did you get the news of Japanese?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Did you hire people?

A: No, I worked alone.

Q: Where did you go from Colorado?

A: I came here and rent a room. There was a shoe store for sale, so I bought it and started the business.

Q: Did you say that was in 1946?

A: I think it was around November, 1946.



Q: Did the shoe business go well?

A: Yes, it did.

Q: There are not many shoe repair stores now, aren't there?

A: No, because there are many cheap shoes out now, so when they become old people buy new shoes instead of repairing the old ones.

Q: How was the atmosphere here when you came back in 1946?

A: It was not bad towards Japanese.

Q: When did you get married?

A: I forgot what year it was. We were divorced about 20 years ago.

Q: Did you send for your wife from Japan?

A: No, she was here.

Q: When did you retire from the business?

A: In May of last year I became ill and was hospitalized, so I sold it to a Korean cheap.

Q: Did your business go well after you came back here?

A: Yes, it did.

Q: Do you have any relations?

A: I have a cousin. He takes care of me.

Q: Do you have any relations in Japan?

A: My parents and sister have died. I only have niece and nephews.



Q: Aren't you lonely all by yourself?

A: Yes, I am. When I was young I did not feel lonely, but as I grew old I think it is not good to be all alone.

Q: Which bone did you have the periostitis?

A: On my leg.

Q: You could not do hard labor since you suffered from periostitis, couldn't you?

A: No. That is why I learned to be a cobbler. In those days some people told me to be a cobbler and others told me to be a barber or a tailor. I heard that There was a Japanese tailor named Mr. Kodama on Jackson Street then, so I went to him and asked him if he would teach me to be a tailor. He told me that he would like to teach me but unfortunately he had a stroke and he had difficulties in moving his limb so he was not working any more. I gave up on that and went to 9th and San Pedro Streets where a man from my hometown had a shoe repair shop. He taught me how to repair shoes. In those days almost all the <sup>Japanese were</sup> living around 9th and Market Sts. as there were many Japanese farmers. That was around 1924.

Q: Are you glad you came to America?

A: Yes, I am. I have acquired American citizenship and renounced my Japanese citizenship, so I am an American now.

Q: Don't you think you would have been better off in Japan?

A: No, I don't think so. It doesn't make much difference where you live.



Q: Do you think it is a good thing that Sansei and Yonsei are interested in Japan?

A: I think it is a very good thing. I am very grateful to Sansei because they are the ones who do most charitable work towards Issei. I think it would have been good if Nisei did that. Ironically it is Sansei who who are doing that and not Nisei. On Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day Sansei prepare turkey and bring them to the Club. I go there for dinner as I am a member. I am very grateful to them.

Q: Don't you think Sansei are aware that they are Japanese?

A: I think so. I think it is a good thing.

Q: What do you think are the good points of Japanese?

A: Diligence and honesty are the best characteristics of Japanese. They are no good if they lose them. Trust is the most important thing. If we don't have trust we cannot do anything. Mexicans do not have trust. That is why there is no growth individually and in their country. Japanese have trust so we see the growth of today. It is the same with Sansei. If they are diligent and honest they will grow. If there is \$10,000 capital to start a business anyone can make \$10,000, but some people may make \$30,000 and another will make \$50,000 depending on the amount of trust. I traded with one wholesale dealer for a long time and he knew me so he told me to take anything because he trusted me. Anybody can pay cash but he trusted me so he let me take anything. I hope Sansei will get that much trust. I think an individual or a country is not good if it is not trusted.



Q: Were you baptized?

A: Yes, I was.

Q: When were you baptized?

A: I think it was 1925. by a white pastor who was the bishop of the Japanese Free Methodist Church. He was a missionary in Japan for a long time so he was fluent in Japanese. I lost all the records during the war. When I came back after the war everything I stored at my friend's house was gone including seal, important papers and furniture.

Q: Where did you store them?

A: At a Japanese friend's house. As Japanese were put in camps during the war most everybody had their belongings they stored stolen. I stored my machine at a machine company so it was not lost. A man sold my small machine, so he was fired from that company.

Q: Japanese experienced hardships, didn't they?

A: We lost <sup>all the</sup> property we bought by working hard. After we came back we had to build up from the beginning. We couldn't have done it if we were not diligent. We rebuilt by working diligently and honestly. I wonder if Nisei and Sansei could have done the same.

Q: Nisei and Sansei are leading easy lives because Issei built the foundation, don't you think so?

A: They had to work hard if the foundation was not laid by Issei, I hope Nisei and Sansei will do their best.



Q: Was it a shock to you when you became ill in 1924?

A: Yes, it was.

Q: Don't you think most anybody have such experience in their lives?

A: I think so. If they don't, they will lead meaningless lives.

Q: You had smooth relationship with the White people, didn't you?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Were your customers mostly the Whites?

A: Yes, they were, but I did not have any trouble.